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popularly classed as harmful. This topic is interesting and valuable, since a comparatively small amount of damage has so often created a prejudice which has led to indiscriminate slaughter of some species. Instead of the usual generalizations which are so unsatisfying to one who desires information, accurate data are used in presenting these subjects. A balance is struck as to just how our account with the birds stands. After his conclusive showing of the essential value of birds and their decreasing numbers, their need of protection from the encroachments of civilization becomes evident and appeals to the reader as a vital question. Not only has man himself been an enemy of these good friends, but he has introduced and cared for birds and animals which have been responsible for a large decrease in the bird population. All of this is presented in a way which is never wearisome, but convinces the reader and enlists his sympathies for these invaluable guardians of our forests, orchards, and crops, so that he is readily interested in the many practicable methods of attracting and caring for them which are given in the concluding chapters. Audubon societies and teachers who are trying to create an interest in, and a love for, these delightful and most useful neighbors of ours will find that this book covers the field in a highly serviceable manner; whatever the phase of the study on which information is sought, whether observation of the habits, identification, economic value, or protection, the student and the general reader will find facts and suggestions of value. For those who desire to make a detailed study of any of these topics a bibliography is provided.

The definite and clear discussion of this important question, in a handsome yet serviceable binding, with good paper, large, clear type, and many fine illustrations, make up a very desirable volume for both public and private libraries.

ETHEL GOLDEN

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The Promise of American Life. By JAMES CLOYD BOWMAN. Boston: D. C. Heath & Co., 1916. Pp. 303.

The Promise of Country Life, is the attractive title of a book of descriptions and narrations to be used as models in an agricultural course in English.

The reader who is primarily interested in agricultural students can but be jealous when he reads the table of contents and the author's preface dedicating the work especially to this group of students. In his effort to appeal to farm boys, Mr. Bowman has happily broadened his appeal to American boys and girls. The selections, without being erudite, are full of the call of the woods and the by-lanes and the out-of-doors.

The work has been carefully planned. The author says in his preface: "The first group of selections has to do with the type of individual who is most at home in the country. The second treats of the pleasures which may be found in solitude; the third shows how various types of men have found

enjoyment in a rural environment; the fourth contrasts life in the city with life in the country; still another describes man's mastery over the crops of the fields and domestic animals. One story depicts the unstunted loyalty of man's best out-of-door friend, the dog; one story pitilessly portrays the meager life of those who are too impoverished of soul to enjoy what the country has to give; finally, a group of stories discuss the various sociological and economic problems of farm life."

Since, however, the selections have been chosen from such well-known writers as John Burroughs, Hamlin Garland, James Lane Allen, Cora Harris, Guy de Maupassant, and Lyoff N. Tolstoi, the order in which the selections are placed is of slight importance.

The introduction includes an analysis of method in description, simple narrative without plot, and short story, which most high-school teachers will find very suggestive. Although the text is evidently intended for college use, the selections are not too difficult for advanced high-school students. In schools where library facilities are limited, the book will furnish the teacher of American literature quite a range of modern American writers.

Experimental Education, Laboratory Manual, and Typical Results. By FRANK N. FREEMAN, PH.D., assistant professor of educational psychology in the University of Chicago. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1916. Pp. viii+220.

As a result of the increased application of experimental methods to the study of education, the content of courses for teachers and students has been largely changed in recent years. Textbooks and professional reading present a continually growing amount of material of a concrete sort, much of which has been gleaned from experimental research. Consequently, it is no longer possible for the student of education, even apart from the necessity for training in methods of research, to understand thoroughly and grasp the significance of the materials of study without some knowledge of the methods by means of which this material has been gathered.

The student of education has until recently been obliged for the most part to get this knowledge from courses in experimental psychology not adapted for his special purpose. Hence the demand for laboratory courses which are designed primarily for the needs and purposes of the student of education. Such courses have been severely handicapped by a dearth of manuals and a lack of standardized laboratory exercises. The publication of Freeman's book on experimental education, which is at once a laboratory manual and descriptive of the results of the experiments outlined, comes at a time when much need is felt by teachers of the subject for just such a book.

A brief introductory chapter gives with admirable clearness an account of the significance of experimentation and general instructions as to methods of